

## ABSTRACT

A system, apparatus and method are disclosed for implementing a managed network in a hybrid network environment to support nodes having managed network capability together with nodes that do not support managed network capabilities. In one form of the invention, a method for managing data communication on a network coupled to first nodes and second nodes is provided comprising: controlling a first time period for one or more first data transmissions on the network wherein the first nodes are permitted to transmit data during the first time periods and the second nodes are not permitted to transmit data during the first time period by causing the second nodes to treat the first time period as a single transmission period. Other methods, apparatus and systems are provided.

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